



HOUSE
BUDGET
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Budget Digest

Ranking Member Steve Womack

March 5, 2019

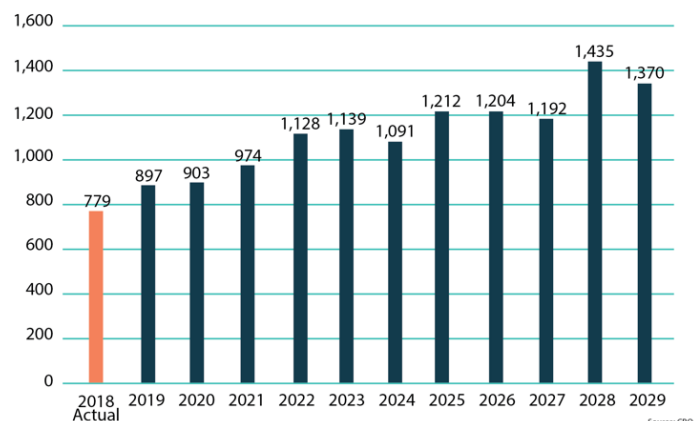
BUDGET DIGEST: MEMBERS' DAY: A FORUM FOR BUDGET INSIGHTS

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 6, at 10:00 am, the House Budget Committee will hold its annual Members' Day hearing – a time for members of the U.S. House of Representatives to present their ideas and perspectives on the fiscal year 2020 budget resolution.

What is Members' Day?: Section 301(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Budget Act) requires the House and Senate Budget Committees to “receive testimony from Members of Congress” in the process of developing the annual concurrent resolution on the budget. This practice, known as Members' Day, provides Members of Congress an open forum to discuss their suggestions and priorities for that year's budget resolution.

Why Does It Matter? In order to craft a responsible budget plan that addresses the diverse needs of our nation, Congress must confront the fiscal and economic challenges we face. According to the Congressional Budget Office, deficits will total \$11.6 trillion and the national debt will rise to \$33.7 trillion over the next decade if Congress does not act.

Deficit Projection if Congress Does Not Act (\$ in Billions)



Some Members of Congress argue that the key driver of these projected deficits is a revenue shortage, and that increasing taxes on hardworking Americans will solve the problem. That notion could not be further from the truth. In fact, according to CBO, projected revenue growth is strong with federal revenue expected to increase by \$186 billion from the prior year. The real driver of our deficit is out-of-control mandatory spending, which already consumes 70 percent of all federal spending and is projected to grow to 78 percent by 2029.

It is the responsibility of the House Budget Committee to craft a fiscally responsible budget that puts the country on a sustainable path going forward. Unfortunately, some lawmakers seem dedicated to exacerbating the problem with additional [budget busting](#) proposals. Members' Day is an opportunity to discuss the consequences of these proposals for Americans today and in the future, and explore responsible solutions that address the core driver of our deficits and debt.

How to Engage in the Budget Process: Members who are interested in sharing their ideas during Members' Day should consult the Committee's [Dear Colleague](#) letter.